

Weather Forecast:
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and Thursday

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PRESIDENT OFFERS TO ACT AS MEDIATOR HUNDREDS DIE IN BATTLE BELGIAN CITIES IN FLAMES FATAL RIOTS IN ST. PETERSBURG AND BERLIN

HEAVY FIRING IS HEARD OFF NEW ENGLAND COAST

PORTLAND, Me., Aug. 5.—Heavy firing was heard early today off the coast here. The shots were heard by the keeper of the Portland Observatory and numerous citizens. The firing was thought to be twenty-five or thirty miles off the coast in the vicinity of Seguin Island. It was heard also at Popham Beach, which is near Seguin Island and at Bath.

A wireless message notifying the German protected cruiser Karlsruhe that war had been declared was intercepted last night. The cruiser Dresden is also supposed to be in this vicinity.

The French armored cruiser and protected cruiser Des Cartes recently left southern waters, under sealed orders.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—Passengers who arrived on the Kaiser Wilhelm II and the President Lincoln today claimed to have heard the firing of guns as they arrived off Sandy Hook about 3 a. m. Some of those who ventured on deck said no ships were to be seen.

Both the President Lincoln and the Kaiser Wilhelm II came into the outer harbor with all lights blanketed save the mast head and side signals.

Second Attack Repulsed By French at Petit Croix

PARIS, Aug. 5.—The German advance attacked the French outlying post of Petit Croix, scene of Monday's annihilation of the German Uhlan column, at daybreak today.

An advance guard of skirmishers, with supporting artillery, charged the French breastworks, but when it was found that the French were in force, the troops withdrew and a long range artillery duel began.

It is stated at the war office that the objective of the attack is probably to isolate Belfort. The latter fort is so strong that it can easily withstand any assault that can be directed against it but, in accordance with the German war plans, it is believed here that an attempt will be made to threaten it so that its garrison will have to be maintained at war strength.

ENTIRE GERMAN-RUSSIAN BORDER AFLAME.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 5.—Fighting is in progress between German and Russian forces along a greater part of the frontier. No engagement in which great numbers have been involved has been reported today, but clashes between small forces have occurred all along the border. The Germans are forming flying squadrons which dash over the border, fire villages and then retire. Numerous villages are in flames today.

57 GERMANS IN PARIS HELD AS SPIES.

PARIS, Aug. 5.—By order of the government all Germans in France who have not received special permission to remain are being arrested as spies. Fifty-seven arrests have been made in this city, including eleven women.

ROUMANIA TO REMAIN NEUTRAL.

BUCHAREST, Aug. 5.—Roumania has decided to remain neutral. A statement of the government's position including a declaration of neutrality was issued by the foreign office today.

GERMAN SUBMARINE SUNK, IS REPORT.

LONDON, Aug. 5.—Special dispatches from Copenhagen today declare that a German torpedo boat is reported to have blown up and sunk in the Baltic sea two miles from Gedser. The entire crew of thirty is reported to have been drowned.

WILSON TELLS WAR STRICKEN EUROPE OF U. S. PEACE PLANS

Proposal to Halt Conflict Is Transmitted to Rulers of Germany, England, Russia, France, and Austria.

Secretary Bryan Personally Will Convey Message to Embassies and Confer Over Proposal This Afternoon.

The United States Government, through its President, today submitted to the warring European nations a peace plan involving a general mediation of the differences which threaten to disrupt the entire continent.

To the rulers of the several nations, President Wilson offered his good offices as a mediator in the war situation. No response has been received, and none is expected for several hours.

Bryan to Deliver Message. Secretary Bryan will personally deliver the offer of mediation to representatives of some warring nations this afternoon.

Dr. Dumba, the Austrian ambassador, is hurrying here from the Austrian summer embassy at Manchester, Mass., and will hold a conference with Secretary Bryan. The French charge has also indicated a desire to confer with Bryan as soon as he reaches Washington from Newport.

The following message was sent to the Emperor of Germany, the Emperor of Russia, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, the President of France, and the King of England:

"As official head of one of the powers signatory to The Hague convention, I feel it to be my privilege and my duty, under article 3 of that convention, to say to you in a spirit of most earnest friendship that I should welcome an opportunity to act in the interest of European peace, either now or at any other time that might be thought more suitable, as an occasion to serve you and all concerned in a way that would afford me lasting cause for gratitude and happiness."

"WOODROW WILSON."

Time Is Propitious.

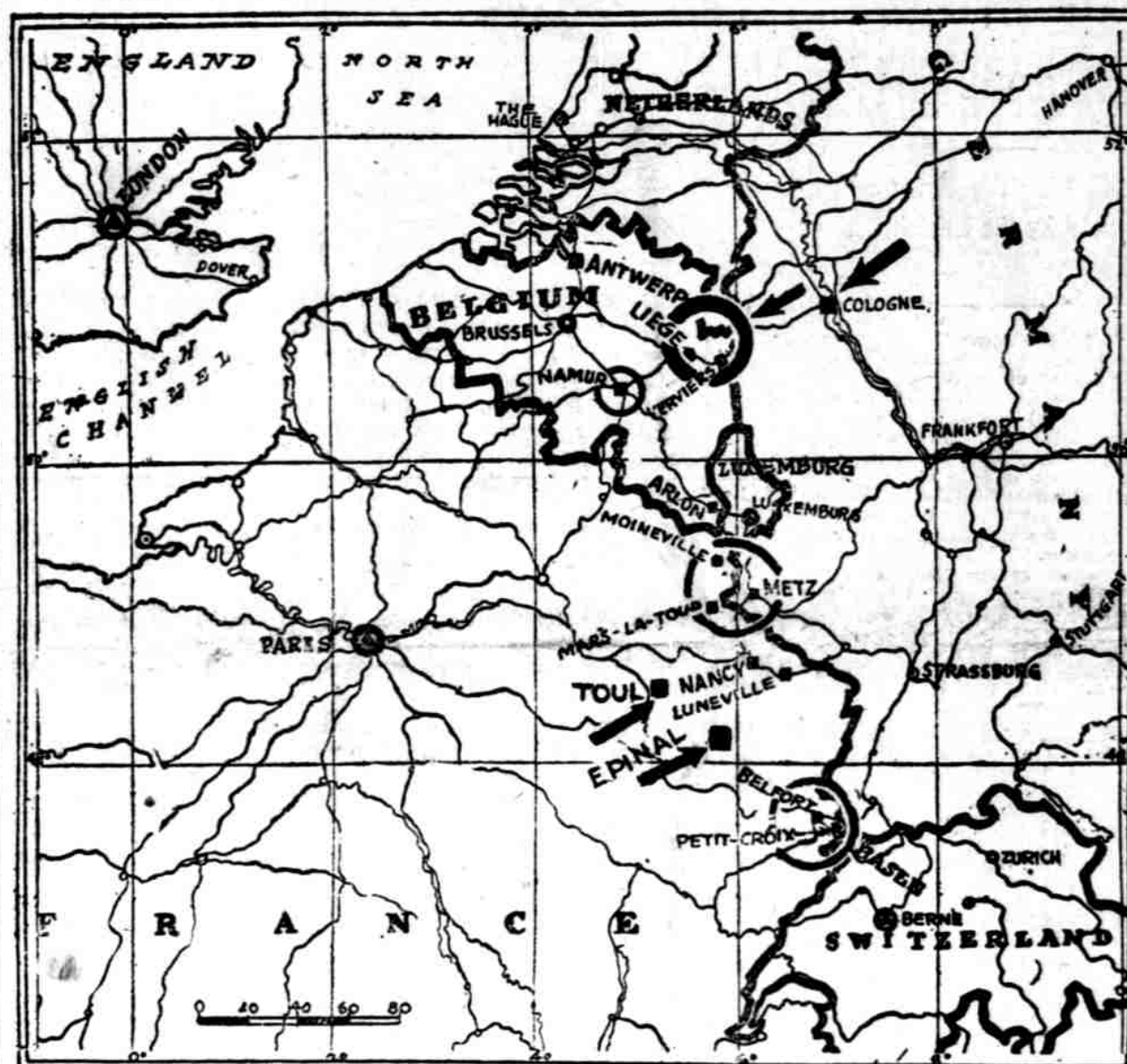
The first of the week the Administration was disinclined to offer its good offices, believing it would be more successful to wait until after some decisive crisis before taking the step. The enormity of the war crisis, however, determined President Wilson that it was his duty to make this effort to clear the war atmosphere of Europe.

The message leaves the way open, in case of present refusal, for negotiations in the future.

Servia, Montenegro, and other nations involved were not included in the mediation overtures, the White House explained, because, although they are parties to the Hague convention, they have not formally ratified it.

All the Western hemisphere will hail the President's European mediation proposal with joy. John Barrett, director of the Pan-American Union, today told Mr. Wilson. He said South America, hard hit by the cessation of German import and export business, will be particularly anxious to give the President its earnest moral support in his move.

"If there is any silver lining to such a horrible war cloud," he said, "it will be found in the fact that this crisis offers the United States an opportunity for getting new South American trade. The countries of South America, he asserted, are anxious to have the war ended speedily, and he assured the President that because of this, every nation would present a united front in support of the peace plan."



THE WAR AT A GLANCE

ENGLAND—Army mobilized; minor fighting in the North sea, off Scotland and Yorkshire; main battle fleet steaming toward German coast with orders to "capture or destroy" German fleet; food shortage evident; poor suffering.

FRANCE—Enormous invading German army already across frontier headed for Paris engaged by French in skirmishing preliminary to general battle; Mediterranean fleet has sunk German cruiser; captured dreadnaught and cruiser.

GERMANY—Kaiser, battling with England, France, Russia, Holland, Belgium, Servia, and Montenegro, getting little assistance from Austria, which is pressed by Russia and Servia, has appealed to Italy to assist him. Fully 5,000,000 men are under arms.

RUSSIA—Invading Austria and Prussia; war fleets bottled up in Black sea and Gulf of Finland; mobilization proceeding very slowly.

AUSTRIA—Army unable to penetrate Servia; now menaced with Russian invasion.

BELGIUM—Entire frontier devastated by overwhelming German army; but holding invaders in check at Liege; bloodiest fighting of war in progress here with hundreds already killed and wounded.

JAPAN—War fleet coaling, and will strike in aid of England should fighting spread to Far East.

HOLLAND—Germans, attempting to cross country, attacked by Dutch troops on border; dykes will be cut and country flooded should invasion continue.

SERVIA—Holding Austrians in check, prepares to invade Bosnia.

GERMANS PUSH ADVANCE IN BELGIUM.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 5.—German troops are preparing a further forward movement across the River Meuse at Vise, Belgium. An engineering corps was at work today building a pontoon bridge to replace the permanent bridge which was blown up by retreating Belgians.

Vise is within a few miles of the Dutch border. It has been occupied by the Germans as a base for their operation. The Dutch province of Limburg, which extends in a narrow strip between Belgium and Germany, is just north of Vise. This is the section of Dutch territory that has been overrun with Germans.

BELGIANS REPULSE ATTACK IN FORCE

Liege, bearing the brunt of a determined assault on the Belgian frontier, is ablaze from German shells.

The first assault by 50,000 men was repulsed with heavy casualties.

King Albert is to lead his army in person.

Namur, another Belgian frontier town, is being shelled by long-range artillery preliminary to an assault by a second column.

Official news from all points is withheld but, with large bodies of men fighting at close range with modern guns, the losses along the German frontier must be in the thousands.

A clash between the German and British North Sea squadrons is believed to be in progress.

Heavy firing off the Maine coast reported, may indicate a naval battle near the United States.

Holland and Belgium are aflame with war zeal.

In Holland, the Dutch army is falling back before the German advance.

A heavy artillery duel is being maintained near Toul and Epinal, where 100,000 Germans are seeking a gap between the French defense. Hospitals at Nancy are filled with wounded.

At Petit Croix a second assault of Germans, to isolate Belfort, has been repulsed.

Heavy casualties are reported from several battlefields.

Surrender of a German dreadnaught and a cruiser and the sinking of a third warship by the French fleet gave the allies the first naval victory.

German Assault on Liege Repulsed; Heavy Losses

BRUSSELS, Aug. 5.—It is officially announced today that the Belgian forces have effectively checked the German advance. Both attacking and defending forces suffered heavy loss.

The country is aflame with the war spirit and even the women are demanding that they be enrolled in defense of the nation. It is announced that King Albert will take the field in person as soon as the war measures are completed.

The German army, having Cologne as its base, crossed the Belgian frontier at Gemmenieh. Divided into two columns, it advanced against Liege and Namur.

The heaviest fighting was in the attack on Liege, where a German force of 50,000 was engaged by Belgians of half that number. The Germans attempted to carry the entrenchments beyond Liege by storm, but were repulsed by a withering artillery fire and the advance column fell back in confusion, leaving many dead and wounded.

The Belgians had mounted machine guns along the railway line commanding the right of way and the military

GERMAN EMBASSY IS RAZED BY MOB

Incensed by reports reaching St. Petersburg that a German mob had destroyed the Russian embassy at Berlin, a mob attacked and destroyed the German embassy at St. Petersburg, according to State Department dispatches today.

The Russian embassy at Berlin has not suffered any serious attack, according to news in the official dispatches.

Several persons were injured during the riot when the mob at the Russian capital attacked the German embassy, which is supposed to have been taken in charge by American representatives.

No details regarding the attack on the German embassy at St. Petersburg were given in the dispatches to Secretary Bryan.

FIGHTING STILL ON IN THE NORTH SEA

LONDON, Aug. 5.—A naval battle between German and British warships is reported in the North sea off Hull. Advice from that coast city say that firing has been heard since daybreak. It is believed that the battle is between British and German scoutships, as the main column of the German war fleet is still reported as being close to the German naval base at the mouth of the Elbe.

Summer tours via Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Daily to Jersey seashore, Adirondack mountains and all New York, New England and Canadian Provinces—Nova Scotia and Quebec, and Alleghany, mountain resorts, also to Western points. If contemplating a rail or water trip for pleasure or on business, consult agents at 15th St. & N. Y. Ave. or 619 Pennsylvania Ave. They will help you.